

WILCOXIA POSELGERI (Lemaire) Britton & Rose	THELOCACTUS BICOLOR (Galeotti) B. & R.
ANCISTROCACTUS SCHEERII Salm- Dyck	OPUNTIA LEPTOCAULIS DC. OPUNTIA LINDHEIMERI Engelm.

## SHRUBS

LEUCOPHYLLUM TEXANUM Benth.	KOEBERLINIA SPINOSA Zucc.
MIMOSA PALLIDA (Torr.) Planch.	KARWINSKIA HUMBOLDTIANA Zucc.
PROSOPIS JULIFLORA Swartz	YUCCA SP.

Until very recently this species of *Astrophytum* was unknown to the natives. The Mexicans now refer to it as "the other peyote." The cactus fanciers who do not learn the scientific names call it "sea urchin" or "star cactus," and some confuse it with *Lophophora Williamsii* (peyote), and think that it is the sacred cactus of the Indians.

This cactus is accustomed to adverse conditions since the average rainfall is 12 to 14 inches. However, it thrives in cultivation and responds well if placed in somewhat shaded surroundings and given more moisture than its native habitat affords. Some specimens in gardens of the Lower Rio Grande Valley have attained a diameter of seven inches.

The reader may think it strange that a species of cactus within eight miles of a large town was not found sooner. The territory north of Rio Grande City is a rather desolate hilly region covered with brush, and until recently was seldom visited by anyone except cow boys or deer hunters. Since oil has been discovered and several wells drilled, hundreds of spectators have flocked to the oil field, and among them people interested in collecting native cacti either for themselves or for commercial purposes. This inconspicuous plant has now become locally well known, and today rock-garden enthusiasts and dealers in cacti are roaming the red gravel hills, seemingly bent on exterminating this rare and unassuming species as effectively as our forefathers did the passenger pigeon and the American bison. The fact that *Astrophytum asterias* is so difficult to locate may be the means of prolonging its existence until the collecting craze is over.

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A NOTE ON GLYCERIA NEOGAEA STEUDEL.—While studying grasses at George Washington University the writer had occasion to read the following description of Steudel (Syn. Pl. Glum. 1:285. 1854):



G. NEOGAEA. *Steud.* Radice fibrosa subrepente; culmo erecto tenero (pedali et ultra) foliato glabro; foliis planis vel subconvolutis angustissimis (3-5" longis,  $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{3}{4}$ " latis) cum vaginis laevibus glabris; panicula angusta demum patente laxa; radiis binis vel solitariis alternis capillaribus simplicibus vel divisis; spiculis brevi-pedicellatis glabris 3-5-floris; glumis parvis inaequalibus apice margine scariosis pellucidis, valvula inferiore ovata obtusa margine scariosa, demum bifida dorso exarate 5-7-nervia. Terra nova.

This description agrees very well with specimens of *G. Fernaldii*, which has been collected in Newfoundland. Steudel's name has long priority over *Glyceria pallida* var. *Fernaldii* Hitchc., RHODORA 8: 211. 1906 (*Glyceria Fernaldii* (Hitchc.) St. John, RHODORA 19: 76. 1917) and apparently is the proper appellation for that segregate. Dr. A. S. Hitchcock has kindly examined the material and concurs in this opinion.—LEON KELSO, U. S. Biological Survey, Washington, D. C.

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WOLFFIELLA LINGULATA IN LOUISIANA.—Dr. H. C. Oberholser, the well known ornithologist, has recently sent me for identification specimens of a small water plant which he collected on 28 December 1932 at Avery Island, Louisiana, where it was floating in abundance on the water of a marsh. It turns out to be *Wolffiella lingulata* Hegelm., described from Mexico and hitherto known in the United States only from California, whence it was first recorded,<sup>1</sup> in C. H. Thompson's excellent monograph of the Lemnaceae of the United States, from irrigation canals of Kern County. In Abrams' Flora<sup>2</sup> it is recorded from San Mateo, Monterey, Kern, San Bernardino, and Orange Counties, California. The plant is a flattish, very thin, tongue-shaped frond, usually about 6 mm. long and 2 mm. wide, with an equilaterally triangular reproductive pouch at the base and a small stipe scar evident on the lower margin of the pouch to one side of the midline.—S. F. BLAKE, Bureau of Plant Industry, Washington, D. C.

<sup>1</sup> Thompson, Ann. Rep. Mo. Bot. Gard. 9: 39. pl. 4, f. C. 1897.

<sup>2</sup> Abrams, Ill. Fl. Pacific States 1: 349. f. 853. 1923. The illustration fails to show the stipe scar, the position of which is characteristic of the species.

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